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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner John Kreck in Group Art Unit 3673 at (Fax No. 703-746-3665) on March 13, 2003.
(date)

BRIDGETTE MASSEY
(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

Bridgette Massey
(Signature)

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
)	
James, et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3673
)	
Application No.: 09/964,930)	Examiner: J. Kreck
)	
Filed: September 26, 2001)	Confirmation No.: 2190
)	
For: BENTONITE NODULES)	
)	
)	
)	

COMMUNICATION

Examiner John Kreck
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Crystal Park 5, Art Unit 3673, Rm. 2A22
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Communication serves to confirm the election of the method of use claims made by the undersigned during a telephonic interview conducted by examiner John Kreck this past Tuesday, March 12, 2003.

During that interview it was discovered that an Information Disclosure Statement was not currently on file. The undersigned asked for time to submit an IDS. Tomorrow, we will have hand delivered to Examiner Kreck the Information Disclosure Statement and cited references from our files. We have ordered additional references from the specification and are searching the foreign equivalents for any additional art therein. We hope to submit further art next week.

(02/03)

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Letter
3/18/03

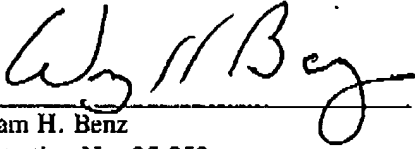
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: 3/13/03

By:


William H. Benz
Registration No. 25,952

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(650) 622-2300

(02/03)